

Originally from Cincinnati, Paul graduated from the University of Dayton and served as an officer in the U.S. Army. He helped C.J. McLin of Dayton begin his long time career in the state legislature, ran for Congress himself in 1968, and served six years as Chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Party. C.J.'s daughter Rhine McLin remembers that "Paul understood people and he understood politics."

Paul considered C.J. one of his political mentors along with legendary state House Speaker Vern Riffe and U.S. Senator John Glenn. John Glenn remarked that Paul "did great work as a civic activist through so many years" and that he and Annie Glenn had no better friend.

Paul served as Trustee of Wright State University and on the Board of Advisors at Ohio State's John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

Few have had as many successes as Paul and the secret to Paul's success was his ability to bring people together. I ask my colleagues to share in the memories of the extraordinary service of Paul Tipps and extend our most sincere condolences to all of Paul's family and friends.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLIFFORD BELL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Clifford Bell, my friend and former colleague and a beloved member of the Buffalo community. A public servant, Mr. Bell served for twelve years as a member of the Buffalo Common Council and chaired the Economic Development Committee.

A model citizen, Mr. Bell worked for 50 years in the dry cleaning business and then joined the Small business Development Center for the Buffalo State College. His commitment to local business does not end there, however, as he also personally led a delegation to France for the Mayor of Buffalo where he discussed international trade while representing five local businesses.

Mr. Bell's dedication to the community extends far beyond his political and economic endeavors as he also was an active member of various community groups. Mr. Bell has been a member of The Luther Church of Our Savior for over sixty years where he has held a number of various positions.

Mr. Bell has also chaired the Martin Luther King Celebration for 30 years, delivering incredible performances at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, and has been the recipient of over one hundred awards including the New York State Governor's Martin Luther King Senior's Award for his advocacy of civil rights and community work.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the life of Clifford Bell. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Mr. Bell's outstanding history of service to the City of Buffalo and the people of the Western New York community.

HONORING RAY HACKETT ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NORWICH BULLETIN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary journalist in eastern Connecticut, Ray Hackett. After 40 years in journalism, the past 27 years at the Norwich Bulletin in Connecticut, Ray is retiring this month from the profession he has loved.

Ray's life journey included completing two tours for the United States Army in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and being awarded the Bronze Star when he was 19. Ray does not talk about his military service often, but his experiences have helped shape his reporting and influenced our region's conscience on the treatment of veterans returning home from war. Ray's account of the first time he visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, accompanied by his daughter, to see the names of his fallen comrades is moving and unforgettable.

Ray's first experience in journalism was spending ten years on radio, including time with Armed Forces Radio and Television. He joined the Norwich Bulletin in 1988, covering the city hall beat. Ray was promoted to serve as City Editor from 1994 to 2000 and moved to the opinion page in 2000, serving as Editorial Page Editor and focusing on politics.

As the influence of his political punditry grew, Ray became increasingly tapped as a moderator for political debates for races up and down the ticket. As a debate moderator, he became known for asking tough, thoughtful questions which gave the voters of eastern Connecticut much needed answers. He also connected candidates directly with the public by broadcasting editorial board meetings with all candidates during election cycles.

Ray's numerous honors include being named the three time GateHouse Media Editorial Writer of the Year in 2009, 2011, and 2013. He won awards in 2008, 2012, and 2013 from the Connecticut Society for Professional Journalism for editorial excellence. Additionally, Ray was awarded First Place for the Dear Governor project in 2010 from both the New England Newspaper & Press Association and the Associated Press Managing Editors Association.

In my view, one of Ray's accomplishments outshines even these honors bestowed by his colleagues—the dedicated push he made to bring U.S. Army Captain and Waterford native Arnold "Arnie" Holm's remains home to Connecticut. Captain Holm was killed in action in Vietnam in 1972, and his body never recovered. Working with Holm's friend Bill Cavalieri and his widow Margarete Holm, Ray kept up the drumbeat in the media to find Holm's remains and return them for proper burial. Decades after their passing, Holm's remains were discovered in 2011 at a helicopter crash site in the central highlands of Vietnam. In a fitting final chapter to this story, my office was notified this week that the headstone marking the grave of Holm and his two comrades was installed at Arlington National Cemetery.

Ray has said that his inspiration as a journalist has always been to "think like a reader" and "never forget, they all don't think like

you." This approach has earned Ray access to readers of all stripes in eastern Connecticut and garnered their respect, even if disagreeing with his reporting or his opinions.

When Ray Hackett steps down this month from the Norwich Bulletin, eastern Connecticut will lose an irreplaceable asset—a reporter and editor who embraced the coverage of all 64 towns in the Second Congressional District, the diversity of our urban, suburban, and rural communities, and the politics and policy issues that animate discussions in our diners and at our kitchen tables across our region. Ray leaves a significant journalistic footprint in eastern Connecticut that will not be matched for a long time. Even in an era of a 24 hour news cycle, he represents a journalistic ethos marked by integrity in pursuit of impartial truth.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ray Hackett on an illustrious career and wishing him the best in a well-earned retirement.

HONORING ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, the State of Israel has flourished to become the preeminent democracy in the Middle East and today celebrates 67 years of independence; and

Whereas, Israel has been a dedicated partner to the United States, working with our Nation and other allies to build peace collaboratively and work toward common interests and goals including the safety, security and freedom of all people around the world; and

Whereas, Our Nation must continue to protect, strengthen and promote our close friend and ally Israel as we strive to achieve greater stability in the Middle East and around the world; and

Whereas, At 67, despite tremendous challenges, Israel demonstrates continually that principle and motivation are transforming forces allowing Israel to thrive; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Honorable LEONARD LANCE, the Honorable PETER ROSKAM, the Honorable DOUG LAMBORN and the Honorable LEE ZELDIN, Members of the House of Representatives and co-chairmen of the House Republican Israel Caucus, join Israel in celebration of its Independence Day.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF SUSIE WILSON

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues the Honorable ANNA ESHOO and the Honorable MICHAEL HONDA, to honor the life and achievements of a distinguished member of our community, Susanne ("Susie") Wilson. She has been a long-standing leader in the Santa Clara Valley as both a public official and a community advocate. Susie served as a member of the San